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Profiles of Intergenerational Community Service Programs

Generations United

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generations united

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Profiles of Intergenerational Community Service Programs

The following programs bring members of different generations together in service to one another and their communities. Programs noted with a "*" are funded under the National and Community Service Act.

ALASKA:

* "SASSY" (Subtitle B: Part I: Serve America)

In Sitka, Alaska, students K-12 and older persons are involved in SASSY (Seniors and Sitka Sound Youth). Some projects are designed to increase understanding between generations, such as collaborative outdoor gardening and the creation of a SASSY float for the Alaska Day Parade. To serve others in the community, participants are creating memory books for use as rehabilitation tools for Alzheimer patients. High school students are working with seniors to create a book of oral histories describing the region. The final product will be used as a community fundraising tool.

Contact: Barbara Soha, Sitka School District, 601 Halibut Point Road, Sitka, AK, 99835, (907) 747-8670.

FLORIDA:

"Intergenerational Law Advocacy Project"

Established to promote awareness and involvement among secondary school students of issues that affect and older adults, this project creates a multiethnic environment where older persons serve as mentors for teenagers. While providing students and senior mentors an opportunity to learn about history and public issues, and about how their actions can change public policy, the program offers a greater benefit on the human side: a chance for the generations to work together and learn from each others' experiences. In forging new friendships, members of the different generations are often surprised to learn that they share common ideas and values.

Contact: Ramona Friachman, Miami-Dade County Intergenerational School Volunteer Program, 1450 NE, 2nd Ave., Room 217, Miami, FL 33132 (305) 995-1215

a coalition of over 100 national organizations on intergenerational issues and programs

Co-chairs

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Daniel Thurst

Horace Deets

Marian Wright Edelman

Executive Director
Child Welfare League
of America

President
National Council
on the Aging

Executive Director
American Association
of Retired Persons

President
Children's Defense
Fund

Director

Tess Scannell

GEORGIA:

*** "Georgia Peach Corps" (Subtitle D: National and Community Service Projects)**

The Peach Corps is an intergenerational rural community service model. Fifty young people, aged 17-25, interact with 10 senior participants over the age of 60 in distinctly rural areas. Corps members are involved in a wide spectrum of human service projects, from the establishment of a latch key program for children to work with Habitat for Humanity.

Contact: Lynn Thorton, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, 1200 Equitable Building, 100 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30303. (404) 656-3836.

"Foxfire"

In the Foxfire program, high school students work with older adults to preserve the crafts and skills from an earlier era. The program operates on the assumption that community connections make the educational process more realistic. Students are given an active role in their own educational process. The students write articles, take photographs, and also produce their own magazine with materials that they collect from elders; a product that is also used to build cultural and intergenerational understanding in the community. The Foxfire program is currently in its 28th year, and operates in diverse geographic locations. Inner-city Foxfire, recently introduced, follows the cultural journalism model, and links young persons with older residents to preserve the traditions and stories of the neighborhoods.

Contact: Hilton Smith, The Foxfire Fund, Inc., P.O. Box B, Rabun Gap, GA, 30568, (404) 746-5319.

INDIANA:

*** "Service-Learning Programs" (Subtitle B: Part I: Serve America)**

Home Economics students at Sullivan Junior High School receive instructions from older persons on sewing baby quilts and draw string bags for nursing home residents. The finished blankets are delivered to a community clothing closet where the seniors and young people distribute them to those in need; and the draw string bags are delivered to the nursing homes..

Contact: Dana Burton, Home Economics Department, Sullivan Junior High School, 820 North Section Street, Sullivan, IN, 47882, (812) 268-4000.

MARYLAND:

*** "Self-Esteem Through Service: SETS" (Subtitle B: Part I: Serve America)**

Interages of Montgomery County developed SETS (Self-Esteem Through Service), an intergenerational service-learning opportunity involving at risk middle school students and older citizens. Students visit regularly with frail, isolated elders, creating opportunities for relationship building and sharing. Each group learns about the other and participants work jointly on three community service projects to benefit other populations in the county. SETS youth and elders recently teamed up to prepare sandwiches for a local homeless shelter.

Contact: I. Austin Heyman, Interages, 9411 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD, 20895, (301) 949-3551.

MASSACHUSETTS:

*** "The Scrub Club" (Subtitle B: Part I: Serve America)**

The Scrub Club is a coalition of inner-city students, teachers, administrators, community volunteers of all ages, and business partners working together to build school pride through school beautification projects. Adult volunteers and students join forces to upgrade the auditorium, build internal courtyards for eating areas, and install water fountains.

Contact: Francis Kubala, Boston Public Schools, Hyde Park School, 655 Metropolitan Avenue, Hyde Park, MA, 02136, (617) 873-2516.

MICHIGAN:

"City of Portage—Y.E.S. Project"

The Y.E.S. Project (Youth and Experience in Service) pairs 15-17 young persons aged 12 to 15 with an equal number of older adults on service projects. Examples include:

- ◆ **Santa's Workshop:** Gifts for 150 underprivileged children are made for distribution at Christmas: wooden toys, stuffed animals, puppets, jewelry.
- ◆ **Senior Center Programs:** Young persons work with senior citizens to care for flower beds, assist at fundraisers, perform clerical tasks, make party decorations and posters, perform with the Portage Very Important Players, and take part in the annual variety show.
- ◆ **Outreach to a nearby nursing home:** During the summer, at least two special events are held at TenderCare and residents are brought to the Senior Center for two other events. In the past, Center volunteers hosted a carnival, a pet show, and a talent show at the nursing home, which is located across the street from the Senior Center.

Working as volunteers provides both groups with a link to the greater community. It gives to each a sense of purpose, self-worth, and dignity. The community also benefits from these intergenerational service teams.

Contact: Jo Arnold, City of Portage, Portage Senior Center, 320 Library Lane, Portage, MI, 49002, (616) 329-4555.

MINNESOTA:

*** "The Cambridge Program" (Subtitle B: Part I: Serve America)**

Students from the Cambridge-Isanti School District work cooperatively with older citizens on fine arts projects. Intergenerational teams of students and older adults are cooperating in script writing and producing plays for a mobile puppet theater. The finished productions will be performed at area schools, nursing homes, and recreational facilities.

Contact: Colleen LeBlanc, Cambridge-Isanti School District, 305 7th Lane NE, Cambridge, MN, (612) 689-2796.

"Partners for Tomorrow"

This program is currently operating in eight rural Minnesota counties. Approximately 120 young and old participants work in teams on community service projects that they design, plan, and implement. The participants attend a leadership retreat together, identify a need in their own

community, and the develop a responsive project. Example of team projects include: recording community histories; community beautification; community fundraising; fostering community pride; community education; and working as part of a larger team to develop community facilities.

Contact: Sally Rae Hedtke, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, 330 Canal Park Drive, Duluth, MN, 55802, (218) 722-5545.

NEW MEXICO:

"Wild Friends"

The primary goal of the Wild Friends program is to empower young at-risk students and senior citizens to become involved in their communities, schools, and environments. Through a unique wildlife and environmental intergenerational program in rural Albuquerque settings and other communities in the state, students and seniors work together learning about and educating the community on the value of wildlife. The participants learn about law school functions, legislation, and how to write laws to protect wildlife. Working together, the intergenerational teams drafted a "Wild Friends Policy Statement" for the New Mexico State Legislature. Wild friends students and older adults worked on a letter writing campaign, found a sponsor for their legislation, and testified before the House and Senate committees. They also sponsored a well received, community-wide education forum. Educational tools, including puppets, build understanding of wildlife issues, as do story-telling, drama, group discussion, and field trips.

Contact: Carolyn A. Byers, Center for Wildlife Law, New Mexico Law Center, 1117 Stanford, N.E., Albuquerque, NM, (505) 277-5006.

NEW YORK:

*** "Language Link" (Subtitle D: National and Community Service Projects)**

The Seneca Nation of Indians has developed Language Link, an intergenerational language and culture revitalization model. Six tribal elders are paired with six young adult participants from intensive language and cultural immersion. While tribal elders serve as mentors and teachers, the young participants administer to the personal, social, and health needs of the elders. This project is designed to instill a sense of cultural pride in the younger generations and encourage intergenerational understanding.

Contact: Crystal Jimerson, Seneca Nation, P.O. Box 231, Salamanca, NY, 14479, (716) 945-1790.

"Community Problem-Solving"

Developed within the Scotia-Glenville School System, this program creates intergenerational teams that study the dynamics within their communities. Co-chaired by a high school student and a community elder, four high schoolers and four elders work as a team to study and propose solutions for community problems. The team meets once a month and follows a creative problem solving strategy. When the team reaches a solution proposal, they present it in a panel discussion to various community organizations, and in written form to local newspapers and school district publications.

Contact: Jean Rose, Scotia-Glenville High School, 155 Sacanday Road, Scotia, NY, 12302, (518) 382-1231.

"Community Gallery"

The Community Gallery invites the entire community, from the youngest through the oldest, to a shared arts experience. Located in highly visible community locations, it not only provides opportunity to all the community's "artists" to showcase their work, but it also is a vivid celebration of the life connections all members of the community share.

Contact: Jean Rose, Scotia-Glenville High School, 155 Sacanday Road, Scotia, NY, 12302, (518) 382-1231.

OHIO:

*** "ECHO" (Subtitle B: Part I: Serve America)**

Student volunteers expand their cultural horizons through the ECHO program, a joint community service project. Some activities include older adults acting as mentors to at-risk students, students performing friendly visitor services for older residents of a low-income hotel. Students also worked with older persons to restore a train station that was used during World War II to serve refreshments to soldiers passing through. Some of the older persons who helped had actually been through the station during the war.

Contact: Joyce Davies, Claymont City Schools, 220 Grant, Dennison, OH 44621, (614) 922-9526.

"Carryout Caravan"

This program is a year-round community-base grocery shopping assistance service for the frail elderly and homebound. Approximately 30 older adults and 10 boys from the Chaddock School (a local residential treatment facility for troubled youth) work together to deliver grocery orders once a week.

Contact: Adams County RSVP Program, John Wood Community College, Quincy, IL 62301.

OKLAHOMA:

"Hidden Treasure"

In the Hidden Treasure: Our Heritage-New Horizons Program, community teams comprised of one or more youth and older adult(s) or leaders from a community organization work to preserve and tell about little-known events, people, and places in their own neighborhoods. The program is designed to create positive interaction among youth and elders, enhance leadership skills, and community participation.

Contact: H.F. Donnelley, Oklahoma State University, Community Education Center, 309 Gunderson Hall, Stillwater, OK, 74078, (405) 744-7244.

OREGON:

*** "Interpretive Garden Project" (Subtitle B: Part I: Serve America)**

This program involves older citizens interacting with elementary school students. Students from Heinz Elementary School, older citizens, and Tribal Elders from the Paiute Indian Tribe are working together to create an ecosystem in the desert, using indigenous desert flora and also plants brought to the area by pioneers and homesteaders. Students interview tribal elders and create an oral history book about Native American plant usage. They will also produce a horticulture book.

Contact: Nancy Canon, Heinz Elementary School, P.O. Box 38, Heinz, OR 97738, (503) 573-6436.

PENNSYLVANIA:

- * **"Intergenerational Corps"** (Subtitle C: American Conservation and Youth Service Corps)

An Intergenerational Corps is forming to coordinate projects that are distinctly intergenerational, such as recruitment of older persons as assistant crew leaders. Green Thumb, Inc., an older worker program, and Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP) are expected to participate. Contact: Don Mathis, Pennsylvania Conservation Corps, 1304 Labor & Industry Building, Harrisburg, PA, 17120, (717) 783-6385.

- * **"ARCO Chemical Company & SE Delco School District's National and Community Service Project: ARCO Retirees in the Community"**

This new project is a collaboration between Temple University's Center for Intergenerational Learning, ARCO Chemical Company, and the Southeast Delaware County (Delco) School District. A minimum of 25 ARCO Chemical Company retirees will work in intergenerational community service activities that will benefit 270 middle school students. The program will recruit, train, and place ARCO retirees to:

- ◆ Teach computer literacy skills to teachers and students;
- ◆ Help teachers enhance the science curriculum to make it more relevant to students; and
- ◆ Work with students in developing joint environmental community service projects, including a quarterly environmental/science newsletter and sponsoring an Environmental Fair.

Staff from two major cultural institutions (the Franklin Institute Science Museum and the Academy of Natural Sciences) will provide retirees with specific hands-on activities for teaching environmental science. The trained retirees will then work in middle school classrooms and will engage students in an interactive science curriculum that includes practical lessons in environmental protection.

Contact: Rob Tietze, Temple University's Center for Intergenerational Learning, (DELVIN Network), University Services Building, 1601 N. Broad Street, Room 206, Philadelphia, PA, 19122, (215) 204-8057.

WEST VIRGINIA:

- * **"CCC Alumni Project"** (Subtitle C: American Conservation and Youth Service Corps).

Young Conservation Corps members are interacting in a variety of ways with alumni of the original Civilian Conservation Corps. A planned project is the production of a video portraying members of the CCC working with youth on the old CCC sites around the state.

Contact: Dean Kenny, (304) 487-3369

WISCONSIN:

- * **The Red Cliff Band of the Chippewa Indians** (Subtitle C: American Conservation and Youth Service Corps)

The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa are utilizing tribal elders as historians, mentors, and teachers of social and communication skills to the younger members of the tribe who are involved in the tribal conservation corps. Elders also create a current perspective, based on historical experience, for revitalization, utilization, and preservation of tribal lands and natural resources. The Chippewa affirm that it is important for intergenerational projects to be developed because both the young and old carry the responsibility for being caretakers and custodians of the future of the reservation.

Contact: Larry Balber, PTE2, P.O. Box 529, Bayfield, WI, (715) 779-3700.

Regional Partnerships:

ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI:

*** "The Delta Service Corps" (Subtitle D: National and Community Service Projects)**

The Delta Service Corps (DSC), the only multi-state community service partnership in the nation, currently has 243 full-time, part-time, and senior participants trained and placed at 119 sites in the Lower Mississippi Delta states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Participants, ranging in age from 17-82 are managed and coached by ten team leaders in each state who are under the leadership of state division directors and corps personnel. The DSC focuses on assets and capabilities of the region while promoting the ethic of civic responsibility and making significant time commitments to serving others. At this time, Corps participants are working on education, human services, public safety, health and environmental initiatives. DSC participants generated 97,158 service hours between October 1, 1992 and March 31, 1993, which translates to \$1,039,591 which could not be generated by current funding structures.

Contact: Suzanne Pugh, Arkansas Department of Human Services, 1300 Donaghey Plaza South, Little Rock, AR, 72203-1437, (501) 682-7540.

